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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/843,548	04/26/2001	Koichi Nakamura	JP919990227US1 (590.049)	9240
35195	7590	08/29/2006	EXAMINER	
FERENCE & ASSOCIATES 409 BROAD STREET PITTSBURGH, PA 15143			PHILLIPS, HASSAN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2151	

DATE MAILED: 08/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/843,548	NAKAMURA, KOICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hassan Phillips	2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8, 10-15, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 10-12, 17 and 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 and 13-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to communications filed April 28, 2006.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed April 28, 2006, with regards to claims 1, 8, and 15 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued that in contrast to the present invention, there is no teaching of discriminating objects such that the objects of a selected owner are discriminated from the objects of other owners. Examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant's assertions.

3. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "discriminating objects such that the objects of a selected owner are discriminated from the objects of other owners") are not recited in the rejected claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Instead the rejected claims, and currently amended claims, similarly recite, "...where objects associated with the owner identifier may be discriminated from objects associated with other owner identifiers". As indicated in previous actions Nakayama discloses an obtainer for obtaining, based on an event entry for an object, a node identification code related to the object by referring to an object management table, obtaining an owner identifier related to the obtained node identification code by referring

to a user management table, and displaying an owner identifier on the screen in a manner that the obtained owner identifier can be discriminated from owner identifiers of other objects, (col. 7, lines 27-42). In this passage Nakayama clearly anticipates the claimed invention since Nakayama teaches the objects (208-A, 208-B, and 208-C) associated with the owner identifier being discriminated (i.e. readily identified) from objects associated with other owner identifiers for the purpose of grasping who among participants in a collaborative work drew a particular graphic, (also see col. 1, lines 45-63).

4. Furthermore, the examiner has interpreted the claim language as broadly as possible. It is also the examiner's position that applicant has not yet submitted claims drawn to limitations, which define the operation and apparatus of applicant's disclosed invention in a manner that distinguishes over the prior art. Failure for applicant to significantly narrow definition/scope of the claims implies the applicant intends broad interpretation be given to the claims. The examiner has interpreted the claims with scope parallel to the applicant in the response and reiterated the need for applicant to define the claimed invention more clearly and distinctly. Accordingly the references supplied by the examiner in the previous office action covers the claimed limitations. The rejections are thus sustained. Applicant is requested to review the prior art of record for further consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5, 8, 13, 15, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama et al., (hereinafter Nakayama), U.S. Patent 5,872,924, in view of Noveck et al. (hereinafter Noveck), U.S. patent 6,823,363.

7. In considering claim 1, Nakayama teaches a computer system comprising: a plurality of user systems connected to each other, each user system being adapted to display a work area on a display screen, alternatively a plurality of user systems connected to each other through a computer network (Fig. 1), wherein each of the user systems includes: a collaboration work controller having a user management table (142) for registering a node identification code (147) given for each of the user systems and an owner identifier (154), which indicates the creator of objects, related to the node identification code, wherein said user management table comprises node identification codes, owner identifiers, and security levels (168), and an object management table (142) for registering object information related to the node identification code, wherein said object management table comprises node identification codes and object data (178), (col. 7, line 46 through col. 8, line 31 , Fig.'s 7 and 8); and, an obtainer for

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obtaining, based on an event entry for an object, the node identification code related to the object by referring to the object management table, obtaining the owner identifier related to the obtained node identification code by referring to the user management table, and displaying an owner identifier, wherein objects associated with the obtained owner identifier may be discriminated from objects associated with other owner identifiers, (col. 7, lines 27-42).

Although the disclosed system of Nakayama shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to expressly show: the user management table comprising user names.

Nevertheless, Nakayama does teach the user management table comprising user identifications (160), (col. 7, lines 52-64, Fig.'s 7 and 8).

Thus, it would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Nakayama to show the user management table comprising user names instead of user identifications. This would have advantageously made it easier to determine who owns a particular object, (Nakayama, col. 7, lines 52-64, Fig.'s 7 and 8).

Although the modified system of Nakayama shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it further fails to expressly disclose: the object management table comprising graying-out flags.

Nevertheless, graying-out flags were well known in the art at the time of the present invention. In a similar field of endeavor, graying-out flags are used in the teachings of Noveck to: prevent editing a message by graying out an "edit" button, (col. 7, lines 16-21).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to show Nakayama teaching the object management table comprising graying-out flags. This would have facilitated restricting operation of an object displayed on a shared window in a more versatile manner (Nakayama, col. 1, lines 60-63, Noveck, col. 5, lines 40-55).

8. In considering claim 2, Nakayama further teaches the event entry being a drawing operation carried out by the owner of the object, alternatively a selection operation carried out by a user other than the owner of the object, (col. 10, line 54, through col. 11, line 45).

9. In considering claim 3, Nakayama teaches the owner identifier being displayed at one of starting and finishing points of the object, and at other points of the object by means of superposition, (col. 7, lines 36-42, Fig. 6).

10. In considering claim 4, Nakayama teaches an editor for performing an editing operation including copying, movement, deletion and others for the obtained object, (col. 5, line 50, through col. 6, line 16).

11. In considering claim 5, Nakayama teaches registering security level information (148) related to the node identification code, and the editing operation being permitted within a range compliant with the security level information, (col. 7, line 65, through col. 8, line 20).

12. In considering claims 8 and 15, Nakayama teaches a method and computer readable storage medium recording program codes used for identifying the owner of a collaboration work object, the object having been created based on collaboration work by using a computer system having a plurality of user systems connected to each other, alternatively a plurality of user systems connected to each other through a computer network, comprising the steps of: causing one of the user systems to store object data contained in collaboration work data received from the other user systems in an object management table (142) by relating the data to a node identification code (147) of each of the other user systems, and to display an object thereof on a screen of the user system, wherein said object management table comprises node identification codes and object data (178), (col. 7, line 46 through col. 8, line 31, Fig.'s 7 and 8); obtaining the node identification code by referring to the object management table when the object displayed on the screen is selected, (col. 7, lines 46-64); obtaining an owner identifier (154), which indicates the creator of objects, related to the obtained node identification code by referring to the user management table of the user system, wherein said user management table comprises node identifications codes, owner identifiers, and security levels (168), (col. 7, line 46 through col. 8, line 31, Fig.'s 7 and 8); and displaying the owner identifier on the screen, by means of superposition at one of starting and finishing points of the selected object, and other points of the selected object, wherein objects associated with the obtained owner identifier may be discriminated from objects associated with other owner identifiers, (col. 7, lines 27-42, Fig. 6).

Although the disclosed system of Nakayama shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to expressly show: the user management table comprising user names.

Nevertheless, Nakayama does teach the user management table comprising user identifications (160), (col. 7, lines 52-64, Fig.'s 7 and 8).

Thus, it would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Nakayama to show the user management table comprising user names instead of user identifications. This would have advantageously made it easier to determine who owns a particular object, (Nakayama, col. 7, lines 52-64, Fig.'s 7 and 8).

Although the modified system of Nakayama shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it further fails to expressly disclose: the object management table comprising graying-out flags.

Nevertheless, graying-out flags were well known in the art at the time of the present invention. In a similar field of endeavor, graying-out flags are used in the teachings of Noveck to: prevent editing a message by graying out an "edit" button, (col. 7, lines 16-21).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the ad to show Nakayama teaching the object management table comprising graying-out flags. This would have facilitated restricting operation of an object displayed on a shared window in a more versatile manner (Nakayama, col. 1, lines 60-63, Noveck, col. 5, lines 40-55).

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13. In considering claim 13, Nakayama further teaches transmitting, when any one of the plurality of user systems starts collaboration work, user information containing a node identification code thereof and an owner identifier to the other user systems, (col. 9, line 54, through col. 11, line 18); and causing the other user systems having received the user information to store in each user management table, (col. 7, lines 46-64).

14. Claims 6, 14, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Noveck, and further in view of Itakura, U.S. patent 6,639,608.

15. In considering claims 6 and 14, although the disclosed system of Nakayama shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to expressly show: deleting or eliminating the display of the owner identifier according to a timer operation.

Nevertheless, Itakura teaches a system for displaying images received from a network comprising: deleting an image received over the network according to a timer operation, (col. 10, lines 53-67, col. 11, lines 1-5).

Thus given the teachings of Itakura, it would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Nakayama to show deleting or eliminating the display of the owner identifier on the screen of the user system according to a timer operation. This would have made a user effectively aware of who owns the object for a specified period of time, (Nakayama, col. 1, lines 37-63, Itakura, col. 2, lines 54-67, and col. 3, lines 1-15).

16. Claim 7, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Noveck, and further in view of Simonoff U.S. patent 6,463,460.

17. In considering claim 7, Nakayama further teaches a session controller for controlling a session for each collaboration work (col. 4, lines 14-27), wherein the session controller includes a management table (142) for registering a user identification code (146) for identifying a user taking part in the session, and a node identification code (147) of the user system used by the user, and the session controller refers to the management table, and transmits data to the other user systems taking part in the session regarding all sessions registering the user identification code contained in data sent from the user, (col. 7, lines 46-64, col. 4, lines 14-27).

Although the disclosed system of Nakayama shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to expressly show: code for identifying the session.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor, Simonoff teaches an interactive communication system for collaboration between users comprising: inherent use of a code for identifying a collaboration session, (col. 24, line 53, through col. 25 line 2).

Thus given the teachings of Simonoff, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Nakayama to show registering a session identification code for identifying a session in the management table. This would have provided an efficient means for allowing users to join a session already in progress, (Simonoff col. 24, line 53, through col. 25 line 2). This also would have

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advantageously provided a means for storing a session for later playback and/or critiquing, (Simonoff, col. 25, lines 25-37).

Allowable Subject Matter

18. Claims 10-12, 17, 18, are allowed.

19. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: applicants remarks in the interview conducted on April 19, 2006, and the remarks filed April 28, 2006 (see pg.'s 11-13), have convinced the examiner that applicants claims contain allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hassan Phillips whose telephone number is 571-272-3940. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8am-5pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on 571-272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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